

FY 24 Budget -- New Staff Proposals

<u>School:</u> Poland Community School
<u>Submitted By:</u> Brandi Comeau
<u>Proposal Name:</u> School Counselor to be locally funded
<u>Priority Rank Order:</u> 1
<u>Statement of Proposal (Description):</u> I propose adding an additional school counselor, which was previously granted with ESSER grants to local funds in order to meet the increasing Social Emotional needs of our students. Our community has faced many tragedies this year and our students need access to a school counselor for instruction, support, and resources.
<u>Justification (Supporting Data):</u> Our school has seen a rise in the need for support with Social Emotional education and behavioral support for students. ASCA suggests that a school has one school counselor for every 250 students. We have 445 students. Our Panorama SEL survey shows that our students lack emotional regulation and self-management. Our Office Discipline Referrals also confirm that.
<u>Goals and Expected Benefits:</u> Each classroom will receive a SEL lesson once a week. Students identified through our SEL survey as well as through teacher recommendation will have small group and short-term interventions. The additional school counselor will also be a resource to teachers and parents in grades Pre-K to 3. Typically Pre-K does not receive lessons due to the number of classes for one school counselor. The school counselor will also provide professional development to staff to increase teacher skills and knowledge.
<u>Consequences of Non-Approval:</u> One School counselor cannot teach the Social Emotional Program each week to every classroom and attend to the needs of our students. She would be unable to hold small groups or meet with students when a need arises. She would have to choose between teaching to classrooms or responding to students' needs.
<u>Lower Cost Alternative:</u> I cannot think of one. We have been trying to fill a counseling position through an outside agency since July and have not found one.
<u>Resources Required (List and cost of staff, materials, space):</u> A teaching salary and a \$720 budget.
<u>Is Proposal to be funded with new funds or a reallocation of existing funds? Is a proposed reallocation, please list source.</u> This position will be funded locally.